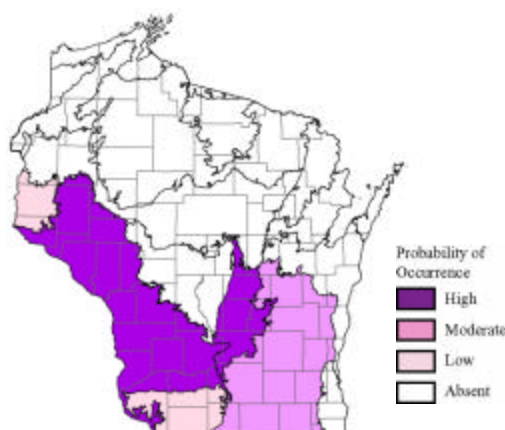


Black Buffalo (*Ictiobus niger*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	4
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.4
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Sand Hills	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Southwest Savanna	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southwest Savanna	Warmwater rivers
Western Coulee and Ridges	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Western Coulee and Ridges	Warmwater rivers
Western Prairie	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Western Prairie	Warmwater rivers

Threats and Issues

- Loss, modification and fragmentation of large river habitat caused by dams in the Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Pecatonica rivers threatens this species.
- Incidental take of this species occurs in commercial fisheries on the Mississippi River.
- Better information on the biology and ecology of this species is needed to inform conservation efforts.
- Potential impacts of exotic bighead and silver carp may threaten this species. Bighead and silver carp can grow very large (to 100 and 60 pounds, respectively) and consume large amounts of zooplankton, potentially adversely impacting many native species of fish due to competition for food, habitat degradation, and alteration of food web dynamics. Both species have self sustaining populations in the Mississippi River Basin.
- Point and non-point source pollution of large rivers threatens this species, which is known to be intolerant of pollution.

- Alteration of the Mississippi River for the purposes of commercial navigation threatens this species through habitat alteration and fragmentation.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Protection/restoration of large river habitats is needed for this large river species.
- Fish passage at dams is needed to connect fragmented habitats. Efforts are needed to control invasive species in the Mississippi River which may compete with or degrade habitat for this and many other native fish.
- Better knowledge of the taxonomy, systematics, habitat use and biology of this species is needed. The species is very difficult to identify (also hybridizes), which hampers both research and enforcement actions.